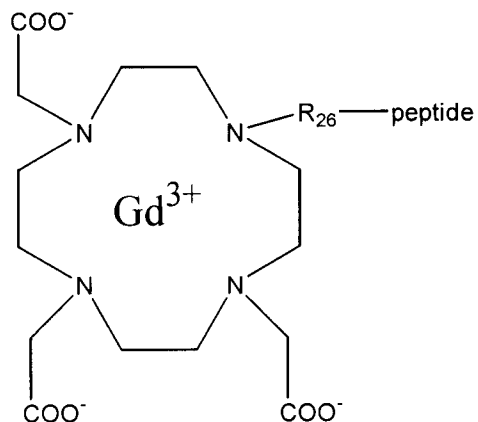


LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) An activatable MRI agent having the formula:



or a salt thereof;

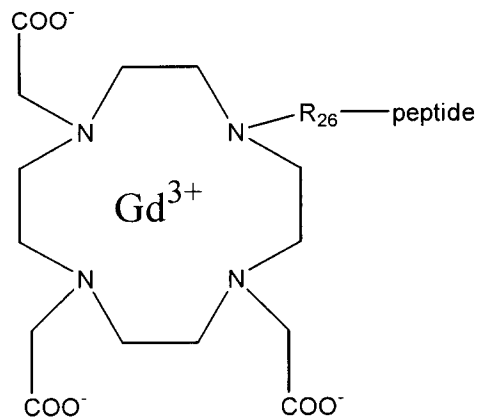
wherein R_{26} is a linker; and,

wherein upon cleavage of said peptide with a caspase, the T_1 of said MRI agent is changed.

23-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method of acquiring an image, comprising:

a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



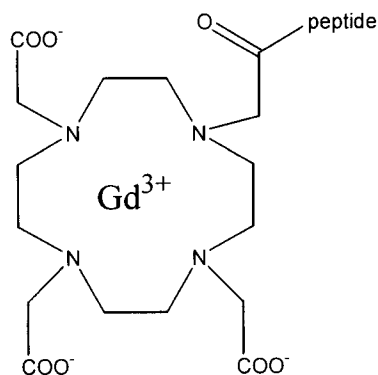
or a salt thereof;

wherein R_{26} is a linker, and under conditions whereby said peptide is cleaved with a caspase in said tissue, cell or patient such that the T_1 of said MRI agent is changed; and

b) acquiring a magnetic resonance image of said cell, tissue or patient.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of administering an MRI agent according to claim 30, said MRI agent having the formula:



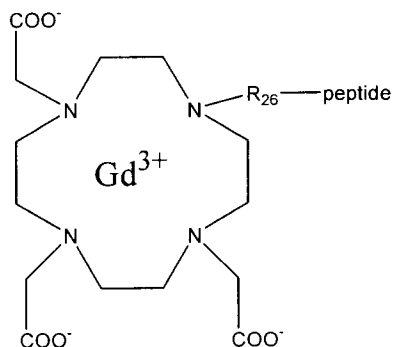
or a salt thereof.

33-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30 or 32, comprising administering a composition comprising said agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

42. (Previously presented) A method for targeting an MRI agent comprising:

a) administering an activatable MRI agent to a tissue, cell or patient, said MRI agent having the formula:



or a salt thereof;

wherein R_{26} is a linker; and

b) contacting said peptide with a caspase such that upon cleavage of said peptide with said caspase the T_1 value of said MRI agent is changed, and said MRI agent accumulates at the location of said caspase.

43-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) An MRI agent according to claim 22 wherein said peptide is a caspase substrate.

46-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, 32, or 42 wherein said peptide is a caspase substrate.

49. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein R_{26} comprises $-((CH_2)CO)-$.

50-57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 42, comprising administering a composition comprising said agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

59. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 22, wherein said caspase is selected from the group consisting of caspase-1, caspase-2, caspase-3, caspase-4, caspase-5, caspase-6, caspase-7, caspase-8, caspase-9, and caspase-10.

60. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 59, wherein said caspase is caspase-1.

61. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 45, wherein said peptide sequence is selected from the group consisting of YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1), DEV DG (SEQ ID NO. 2), SRVDG (SEQ ID NO. 3), DMQDM (SEQ ID NO. 4), YVHDA (SEQ ID NO. 5), VEIDN (SEQ ID No. 6), DETDS (SEQ ID NO. 7), and DEADG (SEQ ID NO. 8).

62. (Previously presented) An MRI composition according to claim 61, wherein said peptide sequence is YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1).

63. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 30, 32, or 42, wherein said caspase is selected from the group consisting of caspase-1, caspase-2, caspase-3, caspase-4, caspase-5, caspase-6, caspase-7, caspase-8, ~~caspase-9~~ caspase-9, and caspase-10.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 63, wherein said caspase is caspase-1.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 48, wherein said peptide sequence is selected from the group consisting of YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1), DEVDG (SEQ ID NO. 2), SRVDG (SEQ ID NO. 3), DMQDM (SEQ ID NO. 4), YVHDA (SEQ ID NO. 5), VEIDN (SEQ ID No. 6), DETDS (SEQ ID NO. 7), and DEADG (SEQ ID NO. 8).

66. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 65, wherein said peptide sequence is YVADAPV (SEQ ID NO. 1).